

February 14th. 1952

ROSE LAWN,
KINGSGATE-ON-SEA,
BROADSTAIRS,
KENT.

Dear Chapman,

Thank you for your letter. Yes, it would be very pleasant to meet again after all the years that the locusts have eaten. And by the same token, while up to my ears in the translation of I. xxxi, this afternoon, I was called down to the telephone to hear a delightful voice, judging by which I had no doubt that I was speaking to the most charming young lady that ever was, and learned that the TV. outfit will be here on Sunday, and that you will be travelling down with them. I hope that the weather will mend, or you will feel like Captain Scott.

It must be more than a year since I first heard from Joy Harington about Bunter: then there was an interval, but, as the poet has remarked,

Hope told a flattering tale
That Joy would soon return.

And so she did, bless her heart, and now I am going to see His Nibs on the screen, which I could never have guessed when I evolved him in 1899, and put him into the Magnet in 1907. I had to keep him for

about seven years before he made a happy landing. He has lasted a long time now: and I shall hope that he will continue so to do, for he is my life-line, and if he should pass out, his author would be booked to behold black Cocytus at the same time.

I had a bit of a shock the other day when advance copies of my Autobiography came along. On one page are given photographs of Frank Richards in 1913, and again in 1951. O what a difference! Who would imagine that a mere forty years would make such a change! It made me feel old, for a minute or two, -- more like Tithonus than Peter Pan.

I have just finished writing six Tom Merry books in under three months, which isn't bad going. Now I have taken a week off, to revel in Q. Horatius Flaccus. The more I dig into him the more fascinating he is, and I have an absurd hope of landing my versions on the long-suffering public, ---- though I won't ask the A.P. to publish them as a serial in the 'Comet'!!!

With kind regards, and looking forward to seeing you,

Sincerely,

Frank Richards